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The Battalion

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Hobby shows assets over \$8 million

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby was worth about \$8.4 million at the beginning of the year, according to financial statements filed in the secretary of state's office.

The required disclosure statements, due last Friday, do not mandate that state officials give a detailed breakdown of their worth. But Hobby voluntarily included a page listing his assets and liabilities.

That page showed "excess of assets over liabilities" of \$8,367,569 as of Dec. 31, 1984.

Gov. Mark White's statement showed he owns more than 500 shares of stock in Farm and Home Savings. It also showed he earned in excess of \$5,000 from rental of Houston properties.

The governor owes more than \$5,000 on each of six loans, according to the report, which does not require officials to disclose exact amounts.

White listed assorted gifts received, including two pairs of boots, a pistol from the Game Wardens Association, horses given to his "dependents" and a needlepoint portrait from an Austin couple.

Linda Gale White, the governor's wife, listed her occupation as real estate agent. The report showed that White's three school-age children have no jobs.

Attorney General Jim Mattox's report listed a variety of business interests, including two car washes he owns.



Dormitory For Sale?

Photo by Lorraine Christian

It seems that even dormitories aren't safe when Texas A&M gets a budget cut. So, maybe someone will call the president's office and check out the going rate on Walton Hall. This real estate agent's sign has been by Walton's Ramp C for about three weeks.

President says trip to cemetery is morally right

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, on the eve of departing for a 10-day European trip, said Monday he will visit a German cemetery where Nazi SS soldiers are buried, saying it was "morally right."

Reagan also said the uproar over the controversial stop will not ruin his summit meeting with six other world leaders.

Vice President George Bush, meanwhile, called on the nation to support Reagan, saying it "has been a very difficult time for everyone and especially so for the president."

Reagan will fly tonight to Bonn, West Germany, for the annual summit of the seven major industrialized democracies. He hopes to nail down a date for the start of a new round of international trade talks.

The journey also includes state visits in West Germany, Spain and Portugal and a speech in Strasbourg, France, on the 40th anniversary of Germany's surrender in World War II.

Overshadowing the entire trip is Reagan's planned appearance with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl next Sunday at the Kolmesshohe cemetery at Bitburg, near the Luxembourg border. Among the nearly 2,000 graves are those of 49 soldiers from the Waffen SS, the elite Nazi combat corps which ran Adolf Hitler's concentration camps.

Jewish leaders and American veteran groups have condemned Reagan's planned appearance at the

cemetery. Some senators and House members wrote to Kohl urging him to withdraw the invitation for Reagan to Bitburg.

Will he still go to Bitburg? "Yes," Reagan replied firmly.

In a television interview with foreign journalists, Reagan said, "The final word has been said as far as I am concerned. I think it is morally right to do what I am doing, and I am not going to change my mind on that."

"All of those in that cemetery have long since met the supreme judge of right and wrong," he said. "And whatever punishment or justice was needed has been rendered by one who was above us all."

"It isn't going there to honor anyone, it is going there simply to, in that surrounding, bring to the people an awareness of the great reconciliation that has taken place," Reagan added.

Meanwhile, the House postponed action on a resolution urging Reagan to reconsider his visit because of opposing viewpoints.

"This is a great wrong, Mr. President," said Rep. Robert G. Torricelli, D-N.J. "Admit it, change it, don't offend the good name of our country. There is no place for you at the tomb of the unknown Nazi."

But Rep. Thomas F. Hartnett, R-S.C., said that although placing Bitburg on Reagan's schedule was "a mistake, a blunder and poor judgment," Reagan should go ahead with it out of foreign policy considerations.

Lawyer says abused children do not have special rights

Editor's note: This is the second article in a three-part series on the rights of minors.

By CATHIE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Martin Guggenheim, a former staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, says abused children have no more rights than any other minors.

"All children have the right to be raised by their parents without fear of harm," he says. "But abused children, per se, have no rights other than minors do not have. They do, however, have indirect rights since the state can act on their behalf."

"The state may intervene in the family and impose minimum conditions of care in the upbringing of children," Guggenheim says. Gug-

genheim, the director of the Juvenile Rights Clinic at the New York University School of Law, has co-written a book titled "The Rights of Young People."

Parents have the right to raise their children according to their own beliefs, he says, although some may consider this to be a limitation on minors' rights.

But Guggenheim says the state

can implement a lawsuit on the children's behalf by assuming a limited presumption that parents are, in fact, abusive or neglectful.

"Since both children and parents are presumed to have reciprocal rights to live together, the state will try to return children to their parents first," Guggenheim says.

"I see this (right) as good because I don't think that bureaucrats are

able to make decisions like this," he says. "It often results in discrimination against the poor and minorities. And sometimes the children are raised worse than if they had been sent back to the home. The child is not given the continuity of care he needs."

But at times children cannot return to their homes, so the state and some non-profit organizations at-

tempt to ensure that they aren't lost in the shuffle of today's work-a-day world.

The Brazos County Department of Human Resources is a state agency that helps to ensure that the rights of minors are protected. The child welfare department, an agency within the human resources depart-

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The Battalion — it can make or break an Aggie's day

Editor's note: This is the second article in a three-part series on The Battalion.

By CYNTHIA GAY
Reporter

Texas A&M students file by The Battalion news stands daily. Some reach for the newspaper, others pass it by.

After an all-nighter with an overdue research paper or a complicated computer program, The Battalion may not be the best source of encouragement.

Michelle Powe, managing editor, said, "People don't want to think about negative things."

The Battalion has given the Corps of Cadets a fair shake overall, Chuck Rollins, outgoing Corps commander, said.

"It has related the stories as truthfully as possible compared to other papers," he said. "We had a lot that could have been blown out of proportion."

Dainah Bullard, a former staff writer, was assigned to cover the Corps just before cadet Bruce Goodrich's death in August. Bullard went to the hospital the night Goodrich was taken there, and she said she knew he had died by the expressions on his parents' faces. Bullard said the resultant coverage of the Goodrich incident by out-of-town newspapers was upsetting.

"It was a real sensitive issue

and (the reporters) didn't treat it that way," she said. "They were on the outside looking in."

Bullard adds that after Rollins understood that she wanted only the facts, her reporting of Corps issues became an easier job.

"It's gotten to where (the cadets) call me," she said, "which is a big turnaround."

Dr. Murray Milford, Faculty Senate speaker, said The Battalion's coverage of Senate issues improved this semester when the newspaper assigned staff writer Kirsten Dietz to the "beat." He says problems occurred in the past between the Faculty Senate and The Battalion because of "either party not going out of the way to be sure the other is well informed."

Opinion columns also need research as much as news articles, Rhonda Snider, Fall editor, said. Doing research for opinion columns vs. research for stories may be dangerously similar, yet the outcome can be drastically different. If the writer or the reader doesn't take the difference into account, confusion inevitably leads to perceptions of injustice.

Case in point: staff writer Trent Leopold's recent column on sorority life at Texas A&M.

Reci Reeves, a member of the Chi Omega sorority, said, "He

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80 percent say instructors 'excellent'

Students evaluate Chemistry 102

Editor's note: This is the first article in a two-part series on the freshman chemistry program at Texas A&M.

By ANN CERVENKA
Staff Writer

After recent accusations that the chemistry department at Texas A&M is too difficult for students, the department has questioned Chemistry 102 students to get their opinions.

The course evaluation questionnaire asks for an overall evaluation of the instructor's methods and effectiveness.

The results from 209 questionnaires from the classes of Dr. Yino Tang and Dr. Wendy Kenney-Kennicut, chemistry professors at Texas A&M, indicate that 80 percent of the students rate instructors as "excellent, highly recommended," 18 percent rate them "good" and 2 percent rate them as "fair."

Another question asked the students to evaluate the course.

Of 206 answers, 11 percent of the students in the two classes rated it as "excellent, highly recommended," 38 percent as "good," 40 percent as "fair," 5.5 percent as "poor" and 5.5 percent as "very poor, not recommended."

The evaluation form also asked, "What did you especially like about the course?" The space was often left blank.

Common responses were "nothing" and "I have no love for chemistry. Tang made it bearable."

The results of course evaluation questionnaires from 209 Chemistry indicate that 80 percent of the students rate instructors as "excellent, highly recommended." The questionnaires are from the classes of Dr. Yino Tang and Dr. Wendy Kenney-Kennicut, both are chemistry professors at Texas A&M.

When asked "What aspects of the course most need improvement?" students wrote, "I know the stuff, but my grades don't reflect that," "I've gotten to the point where learning is no longer the key to Chem 102, but memorization and cheating are," and "Don't try to fail chemistry students, just teach them chemistry."

Other students complained that the homework did not relate to the test questions, that the grading system is unfair and that students are forced to rely on tutors to pass the course.

However, Tang said the chemistry department provides four types of help to students free of charge.

- A professor-tutorial program for most week-day hours to answer questions on a one-to-one basis.
- A teaching-assistant-tutorial program for most week-day hours.
- Pre-exam review sessions by all instructors.
- And, weekly special review sessions.

"Every hour, students have two places to find individual help," Tang said.

In another questionnaire, the two classes answered questions about the tutoring system.

Of the 210 answers, 24 percent ranked the amount of tutorial help as "excellent," 31 percent as "very good," 30 percent as "good," 13 percent as "fair," and 2 percent as "poor."

When asked if they use tutorial help outside the chemistry department, 47 percent said "never," 18 percent said "occasionally," on an 'individual' base, 10 percent said "frequently," on a 'group' base, 6 percent said "frequently," on an 'individual' base, and 19 percent said "frequently," on a 'group' base.

In addition to the help provided by the chemistry department, professors provide students with a list of tutors.

"We offer tutor lists to help students improve their chemistry," Tang said.

Michael Coad, a graduate student in education, has tutored 413 chemistry students this semester alone.

Unlike most tutors who charge an average of \$8 an hour, Coad charges \$25 for the entire semester, and therefore makes more than \$10,000 in one semester.

Coad's goal is to put chemistry on a level his students can understand by using simple terms.

He said the three main complaints students have are that the homework is not corrected and returned but shows up on exams, the tests are too long to complete in 50 minutes and questions on the exams are too challenging and the students do not understand them.

However, Tang said these accusations are false.

From Fall 1979 to Spring 1983, 18.8 percent of students failed. In Fall 1984, only 13.7 percent of students failed, Tang said.

He also said the same questions are used now as in the past except for those that are "more difficult."

Keeney-Kennicut said the chemistry department does not object to Coad tutoring or making money, but she said Coad has been illegally using University facilities to carry out a business of tutoring.

"He can't be considered a tutor," she said. "He's a very successful businessman."